CONNEXIONS

Community Computer Connections Program
Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Suffolk
(631) 979-9490 ext. 13   ww.rsvpsuffolk.org/cccp

MESSAGE FROM CCCP PROGRAM COORDINATOR
Stan Meyers

This year has started with its downs. I found that 2017 was the lowest delivery rate in many years, only 511. Then we had the ransom attack on our server. The number of client requests was down as were our financial and computer donations.

It appears to me that the last half a year we are climbing out of the holes due to everybody's efforts and especially:

- Ed Brown, Robin Fertig and Sandy Schneck who worked diligently on an e-blast to our agencies which resulted in some pickup in client requests.
- Sam Shapiro in creating and housing our interim server and rebuilding and housing our regular server. He was supported in this effort by Sandy who upgraded PATS, Robin with managing the allocation of server use time, and Ed providing overall help.
- Joe Munnie, Jr. in assuming leadership and direct contact for our Faith Based Initiative in outreaching to a new and expanded social activities to create new client requests. This resulted in significant success and growth in client requests ranging from food pantries, senior citizen housing, high schools, etc.
- Joel Becker, we all know Joel, who has come out of re-retirement, to do donation outreach from Rhode Island. He has helped raise necessary funds and computers/laptops. Given us leads for foundation grants.

I apologize for any oversight on my part.

These efforts helped stabilize our operation and will result in projecting over 540 computers/laptops delivered this year, a regrowth of 5.9%. Based on the continuing success in our Faith Based efforts and successfully obtaining a grant from the Sterling National Bank Foundation, I'm projecting 650 computers being delivered in 2019. This will be another 20% or 25.2% from our low point.

Reminder, our next General Meeting is Thursday, Dec. 13 @ Plainview-Old Bethpage Library @6:45.

Following meetings are scheduled for 3/21/19 and 6/20/19 same time and place.

From Pegi Orsino, Executive Director RSVP

Hello all our CCCP volunteers!

Thanks again for all the hard work and commitment you all show in refurbishing and then delivering to our disadvantaged neighbors. It always makes me feel good to see a family with school age children receiving the computers since it's so important for the kids to remain attached to technology so they can succeed later in life. Veterans receiving pc's also makes my heart smile since this piece of technology helps them to acclimate back into the community and get a meaningful employment opportunity.

Recently I've volunteered to make a few deliveries out east to help lessen the outstanding deliveries or swaps we have to make. I now have had a firsthand opportunity to see how very appreciative these people are-being out there instead of behind my desk makes it certainly more realistic and I see up front that this program really makes a difference! So in between raking fall leaves and refurbishing enjoy this glorious season and thanks again!

Pegi Orsino
Executive Director
RSVP-Suffolk

Get to know your Advisory Group………..

Ed Brown

I grew up in Kew Garden Hills, was friends with Artie and Paul (aka Simon and Garfunkel). Went to Forest Hills H.S., was on the Handball team. In 1958 attended CCNY-Uptown in Engineering (Civil) and hated it. I always loved Math. Joined ZBT Fraternity and met Stan Meyers there. Liked college so much I spent 5 years finally receiving a B.S. in Math.

Only knew of a few careers related to Math: Albert Einstein (already taken), Actuary (sounded boring), and Teacher. I took the oral and written tests for School of Education and failed both. I suck at taking tests.

1963 I graduated and married Kathy and decided I wanted to be a computer programmer. I knew nothing about computers and programming. A neighbor of mine took such a job and I thought it sounded lucrative. Took the IBM Programmer's Aptitude test many many times and failed it (remember I suck at tests), but did great on the interviews. Finally, after the 1000th try at this same test (ok, I'm exaggerating) I took it at Brooklyn Union Gas Company (BUG) and passed it. First time I lied, I was asked if I ever took the test. I realized very quickly I had to say "no". I got the job. Next they wanted me to go into Management and I had to interview with all the VP's. I didn't do well. I asked why and they said I didn't show enthusiasm. No wonder, I didn't want to. I just wanted to try programming.

I loved it and took to it so quickly. As a junior programmer I was given important assignments, far and above those who were there for years. I Programmed the IBM 1418 Optical Scanner, IBM 1401, IBM 7070, and IBM 7074.

Left BUG after $1\frac{1}{2}$ years and joined PCH (Publisher's Clearing House). Stayed for $2\frac{1}{2}$ years. Next I got a job as Programming and Systems Manager with a Mail Order Processing Company in Great Neck, for $2\frac{1}{2}$ years. After it was purchased by a Conglomerate, I moved up to Director of Data Processing and was in that position for 6 more years.

I went into my own business for 9 years, creating software for different industries, such as Oil Companies, Alarm, and Country Clubs, and others. I merged into a larger competitor and finally had a decent and steady paycheck, until........

I left (seeing the future demise of the company), had a brief fling running the Long Island division of a NJ company specializing in Unions, until it, also, failed.

At that point, I decided to do Consulting and NEVER go into business again.

Did some gigs in the city for Reinsurance companies and then rejoined an old friend who had started a Mail Order Collection Agency along with me and worked for it until I was laid off (after it was bought by a larger company) along with 4 other older middle management personnel.

And, here I am, deciding to do Volunteer work and LOVING IT!!!!

OUR HANDS TO YOUR HANDS
COMMUNITY COMPUTER CONNECTIONS PROGRAM

➢ **Joe LaMagna has been with RSVP\CCCP more than 6 years now and just recently refurbished his 1000th computer. Way to go Joe!**

➢ **Joel Becker tells us he's now living in Providence in a community (but not assisted living) where the median age is older than me. Several are older than 100, including one man, who is 102, and goes to the gym swimming the length of a 50' pool with one breath. We have made a few friends but would welcome a visit from any one passing by on route 95.**

➢ **Diane Gaudino from the St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church Food Pantry sent Joe Munnie Jr. an email with this information on their program. So far they have given out 39 Desktops to Families/Individuals who were in need. They have requested a total of 47 to date.**

   St John's serves the Sachem School district townships plus a lot more out of the area. We are a pantry open 4 days a week - our clientele ranges from homeless, shelter families, low income, seniors, single parents. On and on...we get referrals from online, word of mouth, our outside church sign etc. We depend on long island cares; island harvest, schools, community programs, scouts church and private donations, and people like RSVP who help us help others.

➢ **Stan Jurgielewicz did a desktop repair and expected to just replace the system unit, but found this very old, very large, very heavy, CRT. The TR said the client has been a client since 2010 so it looks like this is the original unit given to this client. Fortunately he had extra equipment to replace the CRT with a flat screen. On the way home he dropped off the CRT at Staples to be recycled. Thinking GREEN Stan, thanks!**

OUR HANDS TO YOUR HANDS
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St. John's University Service Day (Saturday, 9/22/18) and RSVP - A PERFECT MATCH

Stan Jurgielewicz arranged a community service day with St. John's University (his employer)

The Service project consisted of two IT teams. An onsite team that prepared computers for future donations and offsite team delivering previously refurbished computers to families throughout Long Island.

Onsite Team:

1) Andrew Garino – Coordinator

2) Members: Anne Pacione and son, Ray Diego, Cliff Warner, Omar Lopez, Andrew Garino

3) Hours of service: 9:30 am to 12:30 pm

4) Location: Queens Campus, Library, Room B38

5) Equipment Used: Donated desktops and laptops without hard drives from SJU. Hard drives donated by Tekovery and RSVP.

6) Work completed: Prepared 22 desktops and 7 laptops for future donations: Total – 29 computers

Offsite Team:

1) Stan Jurgielewicz – Coordinator

2) Members: Jim Swike, Stan Jurgielewicz

3) Hours of service: 9 am to 5 pm

4)Locations: Hempstead, Wyandanch, Holtsville, Ronkonkoma, Bay Shore, East Islip, Central Islip, Patchogue, East Patchogue, Bellport

5) Equipment Used: SJU donated computers without hard drives refurbished by CCCP team

6) Completed 16 CCCP tickets:

    A) 4 Trouble Request tickets completed by phone

    B) 5 Trouble Requests tickets resulting in computer replacements

    C) 7 Delivery Request tickets resulting in new computer deliveries

    7) Computers Delivered: 12

Total computers prepared and delivered by IT for SJU USD 2018: 41 computers

Ed, Sam and Sandy

The reincarnation of the CCCP Server by Sandy Schneck

It all started with Joel Wasserman. We were at the March general meeting, the interim server had been up and running for weeks. Since only one user could log on at a time, everyone was working with tight restrictions. The CCCP server was still comatose, waiting for Larry to return.

At the meeting Joel W. asked why we were waiting. Larry wasn't expected back anytime soon. Sadly, maybe never. Joel knew someone who could rebuild the server for us.   We met and spoke with him but it didn't work out. Stan then said he knew someone who could do it. That didn't work out either. Sam Shapiro then volunteered to rebuild the server. He wasn't familiar with server software but was more than willing to learn. The server hardware (and all the files and documentation left by Larry), was moved from the RSVP office to Sam's home.

Over the next 2 to 4 weeks Sam researched every aspect of server installation. How do the various features of Window Server 2008 work? How do you set up Raid drives to allow quick restoration of lost data? What software is necessary? How to install multi-user licenses and remote access? By trial and error, internet research and plain old hard work, everything got installed.

Ed supervised the process. He participated in the planning of all aspects of the project. Ed, Sam and Sandy explored virus protection and backup-and-restore software. They defined the procedures needed to prevent the type of failure that killed the server back in January? They laid out a plan for migrating the live data from the interim computer to the new server. In addition to the PATS and Outreach programs, thousands of other files had to be moved. It took many hours, (copy/paste, copy/paste, etc.) but it all got copied. Then it had to be tested. Was everything there? Could more than one person log on at a time? Could everyone perform their normal tasks? Sandy set up a test plan to duplicate all the actions taken in production and created dummy recipient and computer records. Everyone in the advisory group chipped in to test their activities. It all worked.

On September 24th the server went live. On September 25th it died. Would you believe it, the hard drive died. Murphy's Law in the flesh! But here is the silver lining. All our backup and restore planning worked. We immediately reverted back to the interim server and were up and running the same day. We purchased new hard drives. Restored the server software. Two weeks had elapsed so it was necessary to migrate the data and test the server again.

The server was reactivated on October 8th and has been running smoothly ever since. Plans are being discussed for moving the hardware back to the RSVP office.

Sam and Sandy spent a lot of time and effort on this but Sam did most the hard work and deserves most of the credit. In fact, he taught himself enough about server software that I now think his middle name should be Larry.

But I can't help but thinking that if it wasn't for Joel, asking what we were waiting for, this would never have happened. So maybe the credit should go to him.